

Macomb County reports \$100 million in economic development – Crain's Detroit Business online, 12/29/10

By Chad Halcom

Businesses committed to invest nearly \$100 million and add nearly 1,300 new jobs in Macomb County during 2010, county economic development officials reported.

The year-end economic report, which the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department will present to incoming County Executive Mark Hackel next week, lists a total of 25 business attraction or expansion deals to invest just over \$99 million, add 1,275 new jobs and retain 1,682 jobs. That's compared with \$74.7 million in investments for 38 deals that added 680 new jobs in Macomb during 2009.

Only seven of this year's deals, worth a combined \$46 million and adding about 300 new jobs, closed during the second half of the year. Two of those — a \$17 million investment for Yanfeng USA Automotive Trim Systems Inc. to buy a Harrison Township location and add 131 jobs, and a \$7.6 million deal for Romeo plastic parts manufacturer Romeo RIM Inc. to expand and add more than 60 new jobs — were previously reported state tax incentive deals approved through the Michigan Economic Growth Authority.

"We still have a number of business projects in development right now that will probably come together early next year. They just haven't quite closed yet," said Executive Director Stephen Cassin of the planning and economic development.

"The tail end of the year typically slows a little bit anyway. It doesn't seem to be related at all to the changes here at the county because the companies involved are often collaborating with the state and the (local municipal) governments, as well as us."

The year-end report includes nine investments by automotive or advanced automotive manufacturing companies, two alternative energy companies, three defense and homeland security-related businesses, two by other advanced manufacturing companies, one commercial aerospace business and five companies that were not categorized by a specific industry.

Other successful attraction or expansion deals in late 2010 include:

- **Bosco's Pizza Co.**, the maker-distributor of pizza and stuffed breadsticks for schools and grocery stores, investing \$5.1 million in an expansion adding up to 15 jobs and retaining 137 jobs at its Warren headquarters.
- **Tower International Inc.**, the post-bankruptcy incarnation of Livonia-based supplier Tower Automotive that went public in September, investing \$11.5 million to add 100 new jobs and retain 296 jobs in Clinton Township, where it has a stamping plant.
- **MRC Manufacturing Inc.**, a Roseville-based automotive body parts maker, to add 13 new jobs and retain 55 jobs after obtaining a local tax abatement.
- **Acra Grinding Co.**, investing \$576,000 and adding two new jobs in Sterling Heights.

- **Acument Global Technologies Inc.**, a maker of fasteners for the aerospace, defense and automotive industries, retaining 154 local jobs by relocating its corporate headquarters into its Sterling Heights manufacturing plant.